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The President's Daily Brief

7 June 1971

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~~*Top Secret*~~

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Communists are thwarting Cambodian Government attempts to relieve army positions northeast of Phnom Penh. *(Page 1)*

Pakistani officials are now receptive to a UN role in distributing international assistance in East Pakistan. *(Page 2)*

Soyuz 11 docked successfully with the Salyut vehicle early this morning. *(Page 3)*

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Phnom Penh Area

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CAMBODIA

The Communists are so far thwarting government efforts to relieve hard-pressed Cambodian Army positions northeast of Phnom Penh. Enemy ground and rocket attacks on 4 and 5 June killed 47 and wounded 180 government troops, most of whom were from several Khmer Krom battalions attempting to lift a siege of garrison forces in the Vihear Suor - Kampong Chamlang area some 10 to 15 miles from the capital. Enemy losses remain light.

The government has now committed 22 battalions totaling over 9,000 troops to clearing and reinforcement operations in the area, but these forces have failed to recover much ground. [redacted] - 50X1
[redacted] *the headquarters of both the Communist 9th Division and its 272nd Regiment remain within striking distance of the area of fighting and have edged slightly closer to it during the past few days.* 50X1

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PAKISTAN-INDIA

UN Assistant Secretary General Kittani, on a special mission to Pakistan on behalf of U Thant, found Pakistani officials quite responsive on the question of establishing a UN role in funneling international assistance directly into East Pakistan.

> *Kittani's visit followed Pakistan's recent formal request to the UN for humanitarian assistance for East Pakistan. The receptiveness he encountered in Islamabad is in sharp contrast with previous reluctance on the part of Pakistani officials to discuss foreign participation in the distribution of food or other supplies to the destitute in the East wing.*
>
> *A major problem will be that of transporting relief supplies within East Pakistan. Roads and railroads leading from the major ports are still being repaired after their destruction in earlier fighting, and there is a shortage of vessels for coastal and river shipments. Foreign donors may be reluctant to supply additional boats because of widespread reports that craft provided for relief purposes following last November's cyclone were seized by the army for military operations. Pressure to resolve the transportation crisis grows daily as the monsoon season draws near.*

* * *

Meanwhile, the Indian Government has imposed tough restrictions on the movement of Pakistani diplomats in Calcutta, similar to those already in effect for Indian diplomats in Dacca. This latest move follows several weeks of inconclusive efforts to repatriate the diplomats from the two cities--a project still stymied by disagreement over arrangements for a Pakistani official to interview those members of the staff in Calcutta who announced their defection to Bangla Desh.

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NOTES

USSR: The three-man Soviet spacecraft Soyuz 11 appears to have docked successfully early this morning with Salyut, the 40,000-pound vehicle launched on 18 April and described by the Soviets as an orbital scientific laboratory. One or more of the crew members are likely to transfer to Salyut. According to TASS, the crew will continue the work started by the abortive Soyuz 10 mission.

USSR-Cuba: The Soviet submarine tender and the nuclear-powered E-II class submarine that arrived in Cuban waters two weeks ago left Antilla on Friday in company with two Cuban sub chasers. The submarine submerged later that day and has not been detected since; the tender and the sub chasers have returned to Antilla. A Soviet [redacted] also entered Antilla yesterday. This marks the first confirmed visit by such a ship to a non-Soviet port. 50X1

South Vietnam: The North Vietnamese units concentrated in northernmost Quang Tri Province began some ground attacks on allied positions over the weekend, and also mounted several additional heavy mortar bombardments. Allied counterattacks and air strikes are reported to have caused heavy enemy casualties. Most of the Communist assaults were directed at South Vietnamese Marines participating in Lam Son 810, a week-old search-and-clear operation in the central and western sectors of the province.

South Vietnam: Thieu and Ky are publicly widening the breach between them. Thieu has denounced Ky for attacking the government of which he is part and suggested he should resign. Ky in turn has challenged Thieu's authority to request his resignation, and denounced him as a tyrant who relies on fraud, threats, and pressure to gag the opposition. Ky has also charged that Thieu can be re-elected only by receiving substantial US help.

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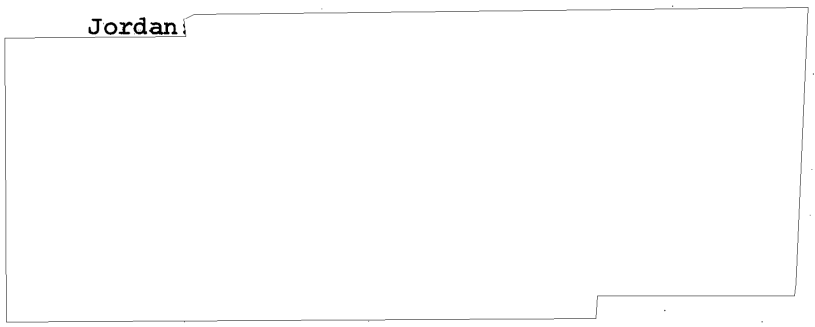

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